

Symposium on Science Festival 2021

The First Symposium on Citizen Science in Thailand: “The Rise of Citizen Science – Elevating Communities to Sustainable Development in Public Health and the Environment”



FINAL CIRCULAR



National Science Museum, Thailand
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

Presents

Symposium on Science Festival 2021
as a part of National Science and Technology Fair 2021

The First Symposium on Citizen Science in Thailand:
“The Rise of Citizen Science – Elevating Communities to
Sustainable Development in Public Health and the
Environment”

17 November 2021

The Final Circular

AGENDA UPDATE

Introduction

Every year, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand organizes the National Science and Technology Fair (NST), the biggest annual science and technology fair in Thailand. It aims to raise awareness, develop public interest, and showcase advancements in science, technology, and innovation, as well as local wisdom, with fun and educational experiences for youth and the public. More than one million people visit the fair each year. This year, the NST 2021 will be held during 9 - 19 November 2021 at Exhibition Halls 6 – 12, IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Nonthaburi, Thailand.

Symposium on science festival has been continuously arranged alongside with the national science and technology fair for the 5th year. This year, the topic of the symposium will focus on citizen science. Over the past decade, we have seen the rise of the attempt to bring science closer to the public, such as a high demand for science communication, encouraging accessibility to science, which all aim to create a scientific society and decrease communication barriers between scientists and laypersons. Also creating a partnership between scientists and the public could lead to wider goals and results in scientific research create co-value among society. Therefore, the National Science Museum, Thailand announces “**The Rise of Citizen Science – Elevating Communities to Sustainable Development**” symposium as the first citizen science symposium in Thailand on 17 November 2021, as part of the NST 2021. The symposium aims to raise the importance of citizen science and bring together scientists, science communicators, educators, policymakers, people who are interested in creating a scientific society, and the public to share their expectations, experiences, and perspectives on citizen science in the symposium this year.

Objectives

1. To promote citizen science projects and encourage the collaboration between scientists, researchers, and science communicators with citizens in Thailand and among ASEAN countries
2. To widen the perspective for science research or project, and social – science innovation
3. To share experiences and practical tools on citizen science projects, especially on public health and environment
4. To be a platform that inspires public engagement on science projects and decrease the gap between scientist and citizens

Key Participants:

Four keynote speakers, four selected proposals from ASEAN member states and countries to share their work and experience on citizen science projects. The intended audience includes scientists, science communicators, educators, policymakers, students, and the public.

Key Agenda

The First Symposium on Citizen Science in Thailand:

“The Rise of Citizen Science – Elevating Communities to Sustainable Development”

Many times, groups of people can be the important forces to influence or change attitudes, values, or even policies in their community to make a better living environment and society. The United Nations also sets “partnerships” as one of the sustainable development goals that we should achieve to create a better and more sustainable world. If we look closer at the scientific aspect, citizen science involves collaboration, engagement, and partnership between professional scientists’ community with non-scientist people.

Symposium on Science Festival 2021

Citizen science can be defined in many levels. It can range from citizens volunteering to observe and collect data, distribute the knowledge of science, or oversee data analysis. It can also range from the local community to the mass or open public, with the same aspect of gathering or distribute effective and essential science information and results. The collaboration of citizens in the science aspect is rising and can be significantly helpful and important to academic research and development.

Over the years, public health and environmental issues have become a huge concern to many nations, and people are becoming more aware and starting to take any action on the way and which they think they can help. We have seen groups of citizens monitoring and reporting the radioactivity levels in Japan, which helps scientists and the Department of Food and Agriculture maintain and improve the quality of local food. We have seen a group of divers report the observation of manta rays in Komodo National Park, Indonesia, helping marine biologists and conservationists to monitor the population and diversity of this incredible species. We have a hope that everyone wants to help if there is a platform in which they can engage and collaborate as one of the communities.

National Science Museum Thailand, as a part of life-long learning and awareness raising of science wants to point out the importance of promoting citizen science in the ASEAN community which is the extension from science literacy in term of gather examples of an excellent practical and successful citizen science projects, focusing on the projects that are relevant to public health and environment. Hence, as a 2021 symposium host, we offer a platform for the community, organization, agency, club, and initiators who have been working on citizen science projects to submit their work to be a part in the proceedings and present in the symposium. We want to gather ideas and inspire communities about citizen science and expand the collaboration between the public and science. Hopefully, it can lead to successful practical collaboration in our community soon, and lead to sustainable development in health and environment in the ASEAN region and global community.

Keywords: Science literacy, citizen science, science, health, public health, environment, conservation, community, science popularization

Date and Venue

- Event date: 17 November 2021 from 9.00-16.00 hrs (GMT+7)
- Venue: IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Nonthaburi, Thailand.
As part of the National Science and Technology Fair 2021 and the virtual conference

Agenda

“The Rise of Citizen Science – Elevating Communities to Sustainable Development in Public Health and the Environment”

17 November 2021 9.30-16.00 hrs. (GMT+7)

As a part of National Science and Technology Fair 2021

At IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center, Muang Thong Thani, Thailand

- 9.00 – 9.30 Symposium Zoom meeting room open
- 9.30 – 9.45 *Opening Ceremony*
- **Welcome all participants and give an opening remark**
by the President of National Science Museum, Thailand
 - **Briefing about Symposium on Science Festival 2021**
by the Vice President of National Science Museum, Thailand
- 9.45 – 10.45 *Into the Citizen Science world (20 mins each)*
- **“Development of citizen science: addressing diverse global challenges through public engagement”**
By Professor Graham Durant | Director of Qestacon
The National Science and Technology Centre of Australia
 - **“Citizen Science in Asia: the potential for the citizens of the world's most populous continent to tackle the urgent challenges of health, environment and more”**
By Scott Edmunds | Citizenscience.asia
 - **“C-Site Reporter, as an open platform for public engagement in news showcase in Thailand”**
By Somkiat Juntursima | Director of Public Engagement & Development
Partnership Department, Thai Public Broadcasting Service (Thai PBS)
- 10.45-11.00 *Coffee Break*
- 11.0 – 12.30 *Citizen science project in Health and Public health (15 mins each)*
- **“Citizen science, civic action, and participatory democracy - Cases from Taiwan and other countries”**
By Dr. Pen Yuan Hsing | MammalWeb - USA
 - **“Citizen-lead industrial pollution monitoring project, Fighting with air pollution by communities and science”**
By Penchom Saetang | Ecological Alert and Recovery-Thailand (EARTH)
 - **“Tracking illegal Trade of Mercury-Added skin whitening cosmetics in key cities in the Philippines”**
By Thony Dizon | EcoWaste Coalition – The Philippines
 - Discussion/ Q&A ---- inspire other to do something about citizen science/how to start/what are the challenges - role of museums and other informal learning venues.
- 12.30-13.30 *Lunch Break*
- 13.30 – 15.00 *Citizen science project in Environment (15 mins each)*
- **“iNaturalist, tracking biodiversity on Earth”**

Symposium on Science Festival 2021

- By Tony Iwane | iNaturalist's Outreach and Community Coordinator
- **“From slugs to turtles: Engaging Marine Tourism to Redefine biodiversity and conservation in Thailand”**
By Dr. Rahul Mehrota | Co-Founder of Sea Slug Thailand
- **“MARsCI: A Citizen Science Protocol to Understand the Impact of Derelict Fishing Gear”**
By Supatcha Japakang and Sriaram Siriporn | ATMEC x IUCN, Thailand
- **“Exploring nature in the COVID-19 Era with eBird and iNaturalist, global online platforms in Thailand”**
By Utane Pummarin | eBird x iNaturalist Thailand
- **“Davo Citizen Science Heritage Trees Project”**
By EnP Lemuel Manalo | IDIS, The Philippines
- Discussion/ Q&A ---- inspire other to do something about citizen science/how to start/what are the challenges - role of museums and other informal learning venues.

15.00-15.10 *Closing session and wrap up*

15.10-15.30 *Virtual Visit the International Photo Exhibition, National Science Fair 2021
“River and Ocean, Connecting water to Life”*

Please note: Due to unforeseen circumstances, some programs may be subject to change. In the event of this, all delegates will be notified in advance. Additionally, the program will be conducted in English.

For more details, please contact

Ms. Narissara Borikul
Science Educator
E-mail: nbnarissara@nsm.or.th

Ms. Pichapa Nimwatanakul
Research Assistant
Email: pitchapa.n@nsm.or.th

Ms. Korkaew Samitayothin
Research Assistant
Email: Korkaew.s@nsm.or.th